

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

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SUBJ: OFFICIAL REACTION TO NEW YORK TIMES STORY CONCERNING
US GOVERNMENT'S ROLE IN OIL NATIONALIZATION
NEGOTIATIONS

1. EL UNIVERSAL OF JULY 2 REPORTS FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON
ESCOVAR SALOM AS HAVING COMMENTED TO REPORTERS FOLLOWING THE
REGULAR THURSDAY CABINET MEETING THAT NEITHER THE US NOR ANY
OTHER COUNTRY IS INTERVENING IN VENEZUELA'S NATIONALIZATION
OF ITS PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, AND THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF FORMER
AMBASSADOR MCCLINTOCK'S REPORT TO THE US GOVERNMENT ON THIS
MATTER. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY JOURNAL REPORTS ESCOVAR AS
STATING, "I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE COMPLETE (NEW YORK TIMES)
REPORT... I UNDERSTAND IT WAS A PERSONAL OPINION OF MR. MCCLINTOCK.
I DONT THINK IT HAD ANY OFFICIAL ASPECT." EL NACIONAL
REPORTS THAT UNSPECIFIED OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES
AND HYDROCARBONS HAD ASSURED THAT THE US "HAS NOT TAKEN ANY
STEPS" RELATIVE TO THE NATIONALIZATION PROCESS, THAT "WASH-
INGTON HAS NOT MADE ANY SUGGESTION" AS TO THE NATIONALIZATION
PROCESS, AND THAT NO "OFFICIAL, FORMAL MEETINGS" BETWEEN THE
US AND VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN HELD TO DISCUSS THE
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MATTER.

2. THESE COMMENTS FOLLOWED WIDE COVERAGE IN THE LOCAL PRESS
JULY 1 OF WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OF A NEW YORK TIMES STORY THAT
EARLIER THIS YEAR FORMER AMBASSADOR MCCLINTOCK HAD RECOMMENDED
THE USG THAT IT PLAY A DIRECT ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE
GOV AND THE OIL COMPANIES CONCERNING NATIONALIZATION OF THE
PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.
SHLAUDEMAM

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